

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 8 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-7 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,937,115 to Domash (“Domash”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 8 requires a planar light guiding medium having a top light emitting surface. The light guide of claim 8 comprises a plurality of light pipes, each light pipe having a collector end for collecting light and an output end, the output ends being arranged along the side faces so as to introduce the collected light into the guiding medium to be emitted at the light emitting surface. Domash does not disclose the features of claim 8.

The optical switch 10 of Domash does not have a top surface that emits light originating from a plurality of light pipes arranged along side faces of any guiding medium. Domash discloses the switch to comprise an electronically switchable Bragg grating (ESBG) 12 with two guided mode inputs 16A and 18A and two guided mode outputs 16B and 18B, where the guided wave paths may be optical fibers, and the ESBG is a polymer/liquid crystal composite. A Bragg grating is written on the ESBG such that when no electric field is

applied across the ESBG, light is coupled from the input 16A to output path 18B, and when an appropriate electric field is applied, light is coupled from the input path 16A to the output path 16B. Domash, however, nowhere discloses that the top surface of the ESBG acts as a light emitting surface to emit light originating from the guided mode inputs. The Domash device is designed so that the couplings (between input and output paths) approach 100 percent (See col. 9, lines 65-66). Thus, light is not directed to the top surface of the ESBG to be emitted therefrom. Thus, Domash fails to anticipate claim 8.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Ellison T. Glode

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438